70th Engineer Battalion (C)(M)

COMMANDER

LTC Vernie L. Reichling

MISSION:

On order, the 70th Engineer Battalion provides assured-mobility, force-protection and limited general engineering capability in support of full-spectrum operations in a JIM environment.

MOTTO:
VALOR-INGENUITY

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

CSM Anthony E. Cady

Current Operations (UNCLASSIFIED)

OIF III

- The battalion redeployed 23 January 2006 after conducting missions for a year in Taji, Iraq as a resourced maneuver task-force, in support of 3d Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

NTC Support

- The battalion provides observer-controller (O/C) support to the NTC from 11JUL 06 through 9 AUG 06 IOT support the 1st EN BN's pre-deployment training.

24th ID (M) Support (Installation Related Construction)

- Urban Cluster Construction Project 1 MAY 06 through 15 JUN 06 at Fort Riley, KS. Currently preparing urban training areas consisting of several one and two story structures, courtyards, and gravel pads with the intentions of the areas to resemble urban terrain for use by Fort Riley Soldiers.

- Constructing entry control points (ECP) in support of 2-91 TSB training facilities as Fort Riley soldiers prepare for training team missions.

Reconstitution Operations

- The battalion currently executes reconstitution operations from February through September 2006 IOT reset the battalion from OIF; recovering personnel and equipment, re-instituting garrison systems and executing training to implement a level of combat effectiveness commensurate with future mission requirements.

Current Operations (UNCLASSIFIED)- continued

Battalion Realignment

- Effective 27 JUN 06, the battalion realigns from 3/1 AD to 4th IBCT, 1 ID IOT provide a parent unit capable of sustaining the battalion's daily operational requirements in garrison and in preparation for future deployment.

Future Operations

- After completion of RESET operations the battalion will begin squad and platoon collective training in preparation for an NTC or JRTC rotation.

70 BATTALION HISTORY

The 70th Engineer Battalion traces its lineage back to 2 August 1941 when it was constituted as the 2nd Battalion, 35th Engineer Regiment. The 35th was deployed to the northern Yukon, playing a vital role in the development and construction of more than 250 miles of the Alaskan-Canadian Highway. The battalion received a Meritorious Unit Commendation on 4 June 1948 in recognition for its work on the ALCAN Highway. On 25 September 1943, the 35th was restructured as the 145th Engineer Combat Battalion (ECB) at Camp White, Oregon.

The 145th ECB arrived at Cannington-Somerset, England on 20 May 1944; participating in Operation Overlord. The battalion entered World War II via the Normandy-Utah beachhead on 7 July 1944 and successfully participated in the Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe Campaigns.

Inactivated in 1946, this proud unit was once again recalled to active service on 1 April 1949 as the 70th Engineer Combat Battalion. The unit spent eight years closing out the US Army presence in Europe before it settled at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as part of the 937th Engineer Group.

In August 1965, the Battalion arrived at the port of Qui Nhon to become the first US combat engineer battalion in Vietnam. The 70th's mission was to deploy with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in positions around An Khe and help establish a foothold for US ground forces. Following two years of combat operations around An Khe, the Battalion moved to Pleiku and then to Ban Me Thuot, the third and final base of operations, continuing to perform numerous combat engineering missions. The battalion was again inactivated on 1 December 1969 at Ft Lewis, WA. The 70th's exemplary performance during the Vietnam War resulted in numerous accolades, to include three Meritorious Unit Citations and the Presidential Unit Citation for Extraordinary Heroism in Military Operations.

The battalion opened another chapter of its history 24 years later on 2 September 1993, when it became a part of the 1st Infantry Division (ID). The deployment of the 1st ID to Europe, and the activation of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Riley, Kansas made the 70th Engineer Battalion a vital member of the "Bulldog Brigade" in America's oldest tank division.

Deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2003, the battalion relieved the 3rd Infantry Division in place, and began the task of rebuilding the infrastructure of the shattered nation. During OIF I, thousands of pounds of unexploded ordnance, munitions and explosives were disposed of by Sapper platoons, while simultaneously rebuilding schools, bridges, power stations and sewer systems throughout Northern Baghdad. The 70th's performance during OIF I earned the unit the Valorous Unit Award.

In 2005, the battalion deployed again to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division. Operating as a Maneuver Task Force, the battalion fought as infantry, securing routes and conducting combat operations resulting in the capture of almost three hundred insurgents and the discovery and destruction of caches totaling nearly 100 tons of munitions. The battalion also provided security for Iraq's constitutional referendum and the historic national elections in December 2005. The 70th Engineer Battalion was nominated to receive the Meritorious Unit Citation for their performance during OIF III.

Currently, the Battalion is executing reconstitution operations so when our nation calls again, the proud and combat tested soldiers of the Kodiak Battalion will be prepared to deploy anywhere in the world to conduct any mission assigned with Valor and Ingenuity.